**MEDIA INVITE**

**AGRO PROCESSING PITCHING PROGRAMME**

Prizes to the total of R1 million will be up for crabs at the second leg of Agro-processing Pitching event. The programme is an incentive scheme established by department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) to support SMMEs in agro-processing with the intention to broaden participation in this sector.

Nine (9) entrepreneurs in the agro-processing sector who applied and have been selected will pitch to a panel of judges constituting of department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Land Bank, Central University of Technology CUT), South African Bureau of Standards SABS and DESTEA. At the end of the pitching session, from the nine contenders, three winners will be announced. The decision of the judges in choosing the winners will be based amongst others on the sustainability of the business, job creation, the uniqueness of the business or product as well as the market for the product.

A budget of R3 million has been made available by Treasury this financial year specifically for the support of SMMEs in agro-processing.

The third and the final leg of this competition will be in October 2018 and interested entrepreneurs in agro-processing sector can still apply until the 28th September 2018.

**The details of the event are as follows:**

**Date: 31 August 2018**

**Venue: Igym Building (CUT)**

**Time: 09:30**

**Issued by Issued by the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs**:

**For more details contact: Lebogang Maloale or Buko Gcolotela on 051 400 9631/4725 or Email:** **gcolotelad@destea.gov.za** **or** **maloalel@destea.fs.gov.za**